

# Wildfire Prevention Tips for Your Home

A fast moving brush fire destroyed 14 mobile homes and damaged seven others in Leander on August 15, 2011. The Texas Forest Service surveyed the site and found two important facts for protecting homes: 1) many of the destroyed mobile homes did not have protective metal skirting near the ground, which allowed the fire to move underneath the homes, and 2) homes spared from the fire did not have brushy areas or long grass near them, which helped keep intense flames from igniting the homes.

Based on the findings from this and other fires, you can take steps to prevent or minimize wildfire damage to your home and outbuildings. These simple tips will minimize the wildfire danger:

- Keep a barrier of green grass of at least 30 feet or more surrounding your home or buildings if possible.
- Mow dry, dormant grasses to two inches or less. Remove all dead brush, leaves, and needles.
- Remove leaves and branches from the roof and gutters.
- Ensure all house vents are adequately screened and maintained to keep sparks from entering the home.
- Keep firewood, stacked lumber, and flammables at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Consider removing existing cedar and pine trees, or do not plant new ones, near your home. These trees are especially volatile.
- Prune tree limbs at least 10 feet away from the roof or sides of your home, and at least six feet off the ground.
- Review your home owner's insurance coverage for fire with your agent. Structures such as sheds or garages not attached to your home may not be covered.

*For more information on wildfire prevention visit:*

**Texas Forest Service at**

<http://txforestsERVICE.tamu.edu>

**National Fire Protection Association's Firewise Communities program at:**

<http://www.firewise.org>